



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Title of Application: Novel Bone Mineralization)
Proteins, DNA, Vectors,)
Expression Systems)
)
First Named Inventor: Hair, Gregory A..)
)
Application Serial No: 09/986,625) Group Art Unit 1637
)
Application Filing Date: 11/09/2001) Examiner: Strzelecka, Teresa
)
Attorney Name: Donna J. Russell)

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2003

The Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is a response to the Office Action mailed on September 15, 2003. A shortened statutory period for reply was set to expire 2 months from the mailing date, and applicant therefore petitions the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to extend the time for reply to the Office Action for two (2) months, from November 15, 2003 to January 15, 2004. A credit card payment form, authorizing payment of the required extension fee, accompanies this response. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required to the same account.

Claims 49-63 are pending in the application. Claim 60 has been withdrawn without prejudice, as directed to a patentably distinct invention that was not elected in response to an earlier restriction requirement in this matter. Claims 49-59 and 61-63

have been allowed, and prosecution on the merits is closed, subject to correction of formal matters in accordance with Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

The Examiner has indicated that the following formal matters should be corrected:

In the Claims:

Claims 49 and 63 have been amended to delete the reference to SEQ ID NO: 2 (rat), in keeping with the election of claim groups II and III in response to the earlier restriction requirement. Claim 60 is withdrawn from consideration for this same reason, as claim 60 is directed to a LIM Mineralization Protein from rat (SEQ ID NO: 1). A complete listing of all claims accompanies this response.

In the Specification:

A replacement paragraph number one accompanies this response. As originally filed, the language of the first paragraph of the specification did not include a reference to all the priority documents from which priority is claimed in the present application.

With these changes, Applicant believes that the claims are in condition for a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna J. Russell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

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